

CHAPTER NO. 703

HOUSE BILL NO. 2366

**By Representatives Bowers, Cooper, Henri Brooks, John DeBerry, Lois DeBerry,
Ulysses Jones, Towns, Marrero, Kernell, Miller**

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2290

By Senators Ford, Dixon

AN ACT relative to the general sessions court of certain counties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) The county commission of any county having a population of eight hundred thousand (800,000) or more according to the 2000 federal census or any subsequent federal census, may designate a division of the county's general sessions court as the mental health court. The mental health court shall be staffed using existing general sessions court staff members.

(b) The mental health court is granted the power to hear cases involving petitions filed under the Mental Health Law, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, and mental commitments.

(c) The mental health court shall strive to identify and provide treatment and services to persons who are mentally ill, developmentally disabled or dually diagnosed, or persons who have a history of abuse of alcohol or drug abuse.

(d) The mental health court shall also strive to create a single point of contact for persons governed by this act and shall seek to provide case management, forensic alternative community treatment and community-based services.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 6, 2004



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 18th day of May 2004



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR